

GRADE 7
Writing

Administered May 2021

RELEASED

WRITING

WRITTEN COMPOSITION

WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Informational/Expository

READ the following information.

We can show our appreciation of others with both words and actions. Showing appreciation means that we understand how valuable, special, or unique someone is.

THINK about ways people show their appreciation for each other.

WRITE an essay explaining why showing people you appreciate them can be important.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your controlling idea
- organize and develop your explanation effectively
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE LINED PAGE IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

REVISING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Ben wrote about a popular museum in St. Louis, Missouri. Read Ben's paper and look for the revisions he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



The Outdoor Area at City Museum

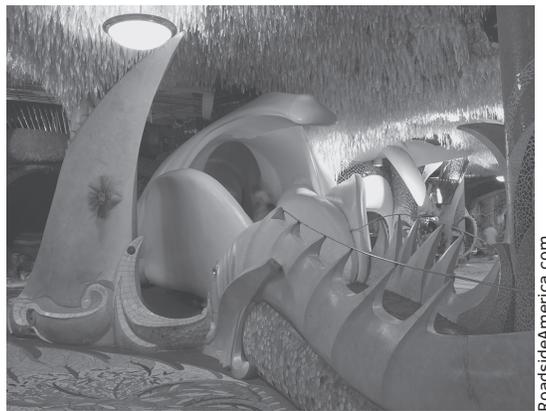
City Wonderland

(1) On a rooftop cutting through the city skyline of St. Louis, Missouri, mesh walkways and tunnels twist and soar in all directions. (2) Inside, kids and adults climb all around. (3) Some take a path toward the vintage Ferris wheel that is slowly spinning on the rooftop. (4) With joyful shouts, visitors disappear into the dark corners and mazes of the building. (5) Some people think museums are boring and dusty, but City Museum in St. Louis would never be described in that way. (6) Its unusual, oversized playground and unique exhibits make it one of the most imaginative places on the planet.

(7) City Museum was the idea of artist Bob Cassilly, a sculptor who grew up in Missouri. (8) Cassilly had sculpted large projects in the past, such as Hippo Playground in New York City, but he longed to create an even larger and more colorful world. (9) So when a ten-story abandoned shoe warehouse in downtown St. Louis went up for sale in 1993, Cassilly purchased it, cleaned it out, and started building. (10) By 1996 he was creating tunnels, mazes, caves, and slides that twisted down into different rooms. (11) Every inch of the structure presented an opportunity to create something unusual.

(12) Cassilly and his crew found objects to repurpose as building materials. (13) They built walls out of soda bottles and metal safety deposit boxes. (14) They created a 3-D hall of mirrors with an enormous bank vault door as the entrance. (15) For some of the slides, the chutes of old cement mixers are what Cassilly welded together. (16) A huge sculpture of a whale became the entrance to a vast cave. (17) Pieces of fabric nailed to a ceiling create the feel of an underwater environment. (18) In fact, nothing in the building appears store-bought. (19) I'd really like to see this place one day.

(20) When the museum opened in 1997, they were delighted. (21) Guests then, and now, find their way around the playscapes in the museum without the aid of any sort of map. (22) Navigating City Museum without a map encourages exploration, and people can spend hours discovering the many exhibits. (23) "We want you to get lost," J. Watson Scott, a staff member, explains. (24) As guests explore, cries of enthusiasm echo across fake dinosaur bones and a human-sized hamster wheel. (25) A small train chugs by and kids climb aboard. (26) From the mosaic-decorated bottom floor, an airshaft opens to a giant roof of skylights, ten stories up. (27) It is easy to see how the museum quickly became a favored city attraction.



Giant Sculptures Inside City Museum

(28) There are other things here, too. (29) People can wander through a display of giant butterflies and bugs or gaze at an assortment of robots. (30) Other exhibits include unusual collections of opera posters and even doorknobs.

(31) Nothing is too odd for this uncommon museum.

(32) Although Cassilly died in 2011, his team at the museum continues its work. (33) Employees are constantly adjusting creations and add new ones. (34) And with every move, they try to match the imaginative spirit of their mentor, Bob Cassilly. (35) Mike DeFilippo, museum photographer, describes Cassilly's creativity. (36) "When everybody else was watching TV, playing golf, or surfing the Internet," he remarks, "Bob was thinking and creating and building." (37) And in the end, it's that brilliant, colorful energy that people enjoy when they lose themselves in City Museum in St. Louis.

- 1** Ben wants to add support to his introductory paragraph. Which of the following should be added after sentence 3 to accomplish this goal?
- A** Both children and their parents climb all around the intricate wonderland that is found in St. Louis, Missouri.
 - B** Others position themselves at the top of a long slide that reaches down ten stories inside the building.
 - C** This is an amazing museum, and there should be many more like this across the country.
 - D** This Ferris wheel is from long ago, and it is an incredible presence as it spins on the rooftop of this building.
-

- 2** Ben has included an extraneous sentence in the third paragraph (sentences 12–19). Which sentence should Ben delete from this paragraph?

- F** Sentence 13
 - G** Sentence 14
 - H** Sentence 18
 - J** Sentence 19
-

- 3** What is the most effective way to revise sentence 15?

- A** For some of the slides, Cassilly welded together the chutes of old cement mixers.
- B** For some of the slides, the chutes and old cement mixers were welded together by Cassilly.
- C** Together the chutes of old cement mixtures were welded by Cassilly.
- D** The chutes were welded together by Cassilly for some of the slides by using old cement mixers.

4 The meaning of sentence 20 is unclear. What change should Ben make to improve the clarity of this sentence?

- F Change *the museum* to **it**
 - G Change *opened* to **began**
 - H Change *they* to **visitors**
 - J Change *delighted* to **thrilled**
-

5 Ben wants to improve the transition between the fourth paragraph (sentences 20–27) and the fifth paragraph (sentences 28–31). Which of the following should replace sentence 28 to help accomplish this goal?

- A But the playscapes are not all this museum has to offer; it also has some unique displays.
 - B There are actually some other things this unique museum has to offer, and they are inside the museum as well.
 - C At this museum people can enjoy creative and unusual playscapes; they are available both day and night.
 - D If this isn't enough, there are some other things for you to do when you visit this museum.
-

6 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 33?

- F Employees are constantly adjusting creations and added new ones.
- G Employees are constantly adjusting creations and adding new ones.
- H Employees are constantly adjust creations and add new ones.
- J Employees are constantly having adjusted creations and adding new ones.

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Alicia wanted to learn more about butterfly wings. After doing some research, she wrote this paper. Read Alicia's paper and look for any revisions she should make. Then answer the questions that follow.



Blue Morpho Butterfly



Two-tailed Pasha

The Wonder of Wings

- (1) Butterfly wings are known for their bright colors and beautiful designs.
- (2) While these fluttering images make the world a lovelier place, they serve a much greater purpose.
- (3) First of all, wings help a butterfly manage its body temperature.
- (4) Because butterflies are cold blooded, the environment around them determines their temperature. (5) When the air is colder than 60°F, a butterfly will get cold and lose energy, which makes it unable to fly. (6) If a butterfly wants to fly, it must warm up its muscles. (7) Luckily, wings can help warm butterflies through the act of basking. (8) Butterflies bask by finding a place to rest, spreading their wings, and soaking in the sun's rays.
- (9) Wings also help butterflies find mates. (10) The design of the wings allows members of the same species to recognize one another. (11) In the monarch butterfly species of North and South America, for example, the male has a black spot on its back wings. (12) This mark is a gland that produces a scent that female butterflies recognize. (13) The blue morpho butterfly of South America, however, has layers of scales that make it appear bright blue when it is ready to mate.
- (14) Another important function of a butterfly's wings is to protect the creature from predators. (15) When the blue morpho butterfly folds its wings up, a brown underside shows. (16) The brown color enables the butterfly to hide in

nature. (17) Other butterflies use their wing color as a type of secret code. (18) For instance, one tropical butterfly sees other butterflies like itself as a bright blue color. (19) To predators, however, these butterflies appear green. (20) This color blends in with the natural surroundings. (21) This helps protect the butterfly from predators that might want to harm it.

(22) Though wing color allows some butterflies to hide from creatures, other butterflies have wing colors that keep predators from eating them. (23) The monarch butterfly, for example, has black, white, and orange on its wings. (24) Many animals know not to touch a monarch butterfly, for fear of becoming sick. (25) Some butterflies, such as the red-spotted purple butterfly of New England, have adapted over time to have the same colors as poisonous butterflies, even though they themselves are not poisonous.

(26) Perhaps most fascinating are butterflies whose wing patterns fool predators into seeing an illusion. (27) Some butterflies have spots on their wings that copy the eyes of large birds. (28) When smaller birds see these spots, they may become frightened by the “bird’s eye” and fly away immediately. (29) One particular butterfly, named the two-tailed pasha, can trick viewers with more than one illusion. (30) According to Professor Philip Howse, an insect expert who lives in England, “From one angle it looks like a bird with a gaping beak, while from another it looks like a caterpillar with a spiny head.”

7 Which sentence should follow sentence 2 and serve as a controlling idea for Alicia’s paper?

- A A butterfly’s wings are there for a reason.
 - B Wings are necessary for the butterfly’s survival.
 - C A butterfly’s wings are exceptionally gorgeous.
 - D Wings allow butterflies to fly in the sky.
-

8 Alicia would like to add the following sentence to the second paragraph (sentences 3–8).

Basking allows butterflies to absorb heat from the sun and helps raise their body temperatures enough to give them energy to fly once again.

Where is the most effective place to insert this sentence?

- F At the beginning of the paragraph
 - G After sentence 3
 - H After sentence 5
 - J At the end of the paragraph
-

9 Which is the most effective revision to make in sentence 5?

- A When the air is colder than 60°F, a butterfly will get cold and lose energy, this makes it unable to fly.
- B When the air is colder than 60°F, it makes a butterfly unable to fly when it gets cold and loses energy.
- C When the air is colder than 60°F, a butterfly will be unable to fly, which makes it get cold and lose energy.
- D No revision is needed in this sentence.

10 Which is the most effective way to combine sentences 20 and 21?

- F** This color blends in with the natural surroundings, when it helps protect the butterfly from predators that might want to harm it.
 - G** This color blends in with the natural surroundings that helps protect the butterfly from predators that might want to harm it.
 - H** This color blends in with the natural surroundings and helps protect the butterfly from predators that might want to harm it.
 - J** This color blends in with the natural surroundings, this helps protect the butterfly from predators that might want to harm it.
-

11 Which idea should follow and support sentence 23?

- A** The orange spots warn other animals and insects that the butterfly is poisonous.
- B** Monarch butterflies have a black body, and the outer edge of their wings is lined in black.
- C** This butterfly migrates each year, leaving its home during the winter months for warmer climates.
- D** Monarch butterflies, which are one of the most well-known butterflies in North America, are quite stunning.

12 Alicia has not used the most effective word in sentence 27. Which of the following should replace the word **copy** in this sentence?

- F** prove
 - G** transfer
 - H** invite
 - J** resemble
-

13 Alicia's paper ends abruptly. She would like to add a sentence to sum up the ideas in the paper. Which sentences should be added after sentence 30 to help bring her paper to a more effective conclusion?

- A** The butterfly's wings serve many purposes. They are far more important than just being attractive to the human eye!
- B** In reality a butterfly's wings are important. They can help with many other things.
- C** The butterfly needs its wings for many important reasons. Without them, it could not be the beautiful insect that we all enjoy watching as it flutters around.
- D** Finally, we can understand why the butterfly has wings. We can also grasp how important the butterfly is in the balance of nature.

EDITING

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Emilio wrote this report about Charlotte Brown and pole-vaulting. Read Emilio's paper and look for any corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



A Spirit of Determination

(1) "If I could send a message to anybody, it's not about pole-vaulting and it's not about track. (2) It's about finding something that makes you happy despite whatever obstacles are in your way." (3) These are the words of Charlotte Brown, who is from Emory, Texas. (4) Brown is one of the top pole-vaulters in the state. (5) She successfully pole-vaulted over a crossbar set at a height of 11 feet, 6 inches. (6) That alone may seem impressive, but imagine jumping over a bar you cannot even see? (7) Charlotte Brown did it and won a bronze medal at the 2015 Texas state track and field championships.

(8) Brown's vision was normal at birth. (9) When she was only four months old, however, she developed cataracts. (10) This is an eye disease that causes a thick film to grow over the lens of the eye. (11) Brown's vision was unclear. (12) It was like looking through a cloud. (13) The doctors did what they could, but by the age of 11, Brown knew that she would lose her sight. (14) Today Brown can see a tiny pinhole blur of light and dark shades. (15) She is color blind and cannot distinguish between shadows and shapes.

(16) Pole-vaulting takes specialized skills and accurate hand-eye coordination. (17) A pole-vaulter must run with a long, flexible pole and then, with precise timing, place the end of the pole into a specific spot. (18) This spot is called the vault box. (19) Next the pole-vaulter launches into the air, upside down, and up, then over a crossbar. (20) Once over the bar. (21) The pole-vaulter lands on a soft mat. (22) Some pole-vaulters can clear a crossbar as high as 13 feet.

(23) Brown became interested in pole-vaulting in 7th grade because it was both dangerous and exciting. (24) At competitions Brown's guide dog, Vador, directs her to the starting line. (25) Brown listens for the coaches' yell that signals her to pick up the pole and start running down the strip of artificial turf. (26) This special turf is a dark color, which helps Brown run in a straight line. (27) She counts seven steps on her left foot from the starting line to the crossbar. (28) Then Brown listens carefully for the beeper, it is placed next to the landing mat. (29) The beeper signals where and when Brown is to plant the end of the pole. (30) She then pushes up and glides over the crossbar.

(31) Pole-vaulting is a tough sport for anyone. (32) For someone who cannot see, it may seem impossible. (33) Despite the challenges she experiences, Brown stays positive. (34) She qualified for the state meet three years in a row. (35) Brown came in eighth place as a sophomore, and fourth place as a junior. (36) Finally, as a senior, she won a medal. (37) "It took me three years to get on the podium, and I finally did it," Brown said. (38) "This story . . . really wasn't about me. (39) It was about everybody that struggles with something."

(40) Brown earned an academic scholarship to Purdue University and began attending during the fall semester in 2015. (41) After Brown and Vador got to the university, Brown joined the track team as a college freshman. (42) "I don't believe anything, even vision impairment, should stop you from doing something you love or enjoy, she added. (43) Clearly it has not stopped Charlotte Brown!

14 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 6?

- F Delete the comma
 - G Change *imagine* to **imagining**
 - H Change the question mark to an exclamation point
 - J Sentence 6 should not be changed.
-

15 What change should be made to sentence 9?

- A Change *was* to **were**
 - B Change *months* to **month's**
 - C Delete the comma after *however*
 - D Change *developped* to **developed**
-

16 What change needs to be made in sentence 13?

- F Change *doctors* to **Doctors**
 - G Change *they* to **she**
 - H Change *loose* to **lose**
 - J Change *sight* to **site**
-

17 What is the correct way to write sentences 20 and 21?

- A Once over the bar, the pole-vaulter lands on a soft mat.
- B The pole-vaulter lands. On a soft mat once over the bar.
- C Once over the bar, the pole-vaulter, lands on a soft mat.
- D The pole-vaulter lands once over the bar. On a soft mat.

18 How should sentence 25 be changed?

- F Change ***coaches'*** to ***coach's***
 - G Change ***pick up*** to ***picking up***
 - H Change ***start*** to had ***started***
 - J Change ***artificial*** to ***artifitial***
-

19 What is the correct way to write sentence 28?

- A Then Brown listens carefully. For the beeper placed next to the landing mat.
 - B Then Brown listens carefully for the beeper placed next to the landing mat.
 - C Then Brown listens carefully for the beeper it is placed. Next to the landing mat.
 - D The sentence is written correctly in the paper.
-

20 How should sentence 35 be changed?

- F Change ***came*** to ***comes***
 - G Change ***eighth*** to ***eight***
 - H Delete the comma
 - J Sentence 35 should not be changed.
-

21 What change needs to be made in sentence 42?

- A Change ***believe*** to ***beleive***
 - B Change ***impairment*** to ***imparement***
 - C Insert quotation marks before ***she***
 - D No change needs to be made in sentence 42.
-

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

Jeremy wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. Read Jeremy's paper and look for any corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



A Message from the Sky

(1) People often look up to the sky to marvel at cloud shapes, sparkling stars, or a colorful rainbow. (2) The sky is nature's biggest canvas. (3) In fact, skilled pilots have used the sky since the 1920s to display words. (4) This process is an art form called skywriting, and it allows people to see unique messages written in the sky.

(5) Writing a message that can be seen across the sky is not easy. (6) Pilots are specially trained to fly upside down and sideways. (7) A nonpolluting oil is added to the exhaust system of the aircraft to create streams of white smoke. (8) Pilots have to know how to move the airplane just right to form letters while also controlling the flow of white smoke released from the back of the plane. (9) It typically takes a pilot about 20 to 90 seconds to form each letter. (10) In addition, the visibility of a message is highly dependent upon whether conditions. (11) The sky has to be clear of clouds, and there must be little or no wind so the letters will not blow away too quickly. (12) On a clear day messages can last for up to 20 minutes before gradually fading away.

(13) The first presentation of skywriting was at a public event in England in 1922. (14) During the event captain Cyril Turner wrote "Daily Mail," the name of a newspaper, in the sky. (15) Shortly afterward Turner traveled to the United States. (16) He sketched a message to New York that read: "Hello U.S.A." (17) Each letter was a mile high. (18) The age of skywriting had officially begun.

(19) Soon many companies realized a distinct benefit of skywriting; it was a fantastic way to advertise products to large groups of people at one time.

(20) Skywriting pilots targeted the crowds at fairgrounds, racetracks, and beaches ads could stretch out across 15 miles and be seen up to 30 miles away. (21) From the 1930s through the early 1950s, the Pepsi-Cola corporation hired talented pilots to write their company name across the sky. (22) In 1940 alone, the company paid to have more than 2,000 messages written across the sky. (23) The company's advertisements spanned the skies in the United States, Mexico, Canada, Cuba, and South America. (24) At that time other companies, including Chrysler and Ford, also used skywriting for its ads.

(25) Though skywriting seemed to be the future of advertising, it lost popularity within a few decades. (26) It could not compete against the advances that had been made in television. (27) Skywriting relied too much on wind conditions in order to be successful. (28) Skywriting was also expensive. (29) Companies eventually found that television broadcasts were a more reliably way to advertise. (30) By the early 1950s, skywriters were scarce. (31) However, during the 1970s, Pepsi-Cola decided to use skywriting to advertise again. (32) They hired Suzanne Asbury-Oliver to pilot their company plane, and she flew for the company for approximately 23 years.

(33) Today there are very few skywriting pilots still working. (34) Asbury-Oliver continues to skywrite along with her husband, Steve Oliver. (35) Together they form a flying circus act. (36) They are hired to advertise for companies, promote special events, and even writes marriage proposals across the skies. (37) They create about 500 messages a year. (38) Thanks to social media sights, images of their skywriting messages can be shared online and seen by people from any location.

Third party trademarks Pepsi-Cola®, Chrysler® and Ford® were used in these testing materials.

22 What change should be made in sentence 7?

- F Change ***added*** to **adding**
 - G Change ***exaust*** to **exhaust**
 - H Change ***to create*** to **and create**
 - J Change ***streams*** to **stream's**
-

23 What change should be made in sentence 10?

- A Change ***visibility*** to **visible**
 - B Change ***is*** to **are**
 - C Change ***dependent*** to **dependant**
 - D Change ***whether*** to **weather**
-

24 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 14?

- F Change ***captain*** to **Captain**
- G Delete the comma after ***Mail***
- H Change ***the name*** to **it is the name**
- J No change needs to be made.

25 What is the correct way to write sentence 20?

- A Skywriting pilots targeted the crowds at fairgrounds, racetracks, and beaches. Although ads could stretch out across 15 miles and be seen up to 30 miles away.
 - B Skywriting pilots targeted the crowds at fairgrounds, racetracks, and beaches. So the ads could stretch out across 15 miles and be seen up to 30 miles away.
 - C Skywriting pilots targeted the crowds at fairgrounds, racetracks, and beaches. Ads could stretch out across 15 miles and be seen up to 30 miles away.
 - D Sentence 20 is written correctly in the paper.
-

26 What change needs to be made in sentence 24?

- F Change ***including*** to **included**
 - G Delete the comma after ***Ford***
 - H Change ***its*** to **their**
 - J Change ***ads*** to **ad's**
-

27 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 26?

- A Change ***could not*** to **could not never**
- B Change ***advances*** to **advanses**
- C Change ***made*** to **making**
- D No change needs to be made.

28 What change should be made in sentence 29?

- F Change ***eventually*** to **eventualy**
 - G Change ***that*** to **what**
 - H Change ***were*** to **was**
 - J Change ***reliably*** to **reliable**
-

29 How should sentence 36 be changed?

- A Delete the comma after ***companies***
 - B Change ***events*** to **event's**
 - C Change ***writes*** to **write**
 - D Change ***proposals*** to **proposes**
-

30 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 38?

- F Change ***sights*** to **sites**
- G Change ***their*** to **her**
- H Change ***location*** to **locations**
- J Sentence 38 does not need to be changed.



**STAAR
GRADE 7
Writing
May 2021**

